REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claims 13, 23, 43 and 58 are canceled, and claims 1, 14-16, 20, 24-25, 35, 44, 50 and 59 are amended. Thus, Claims 1-12, 14-22, 24-42, 44-57 and 59-68 are pending in the application. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate prosecution of the application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at (402) 496-0300.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 20, 21, 26, 35, 36, 41, 50, 51 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by King, U.S. Patent No. 6,317,831. The Patent Office also indicated that claims 3-6, 8-19, 22-25, 27-34, 37-40 42-49, 52-55, and 57-68 would be allowable if written in independent form.

Applicant wishes to seek expeditious issuance of a patent containing claims directed to subject matter found allowable by the Patent Office. Thus, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 20, 35 and 50 to present allowable dependent claims 13, 23, 43 and 58 in independent form. Claims 14-16, 24, 25, 44 and 59 are amended to depend from claims 1, 20, 35 or 50 as necessary. Accordingly, it is believed that all claims 1-12, 14-22, 24-42, 44-57 and 59-68 are allowable. However, Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejections of claims 1, 2, 7, 20, 21, 26, 35, 36, 41, 50, 51 and 56, and reserves the right to present claims drawn to the same or similar subject matter for consideration in a continuing application, or to withdraw the present amendment should the Patent Office reconsider its indication of allowability of claims 3-6, 8-19, 22-25, 27-34, 37-40 42-49, 52-55, and 57-68. Applicant also reserves the right to establish prior inventorship via an affidavit or declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131.

CONCLUSION

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance of all claims. Accordingly, notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 7, 2004